SOME ACARIANS FROM A SPHAGNUM SWAMP.

By NATHAN BANKS.

Near the village of Roslyn, L. I., N. Y., there is, on a hill about one hundred feet high, a deep swamp, locally known as "The Black Swamp." Sphagnum grows abundantly in the swamp, and in some places it is covered with water for a considerable portion of the year. It was from the sphagnum which was covered with a few inches of water that the following mites were taken. None of the forms exhibit any peculiar structure fitting them for their semi-aquatic life. One of the Oribatids has very long setæ, and another species, which I have also found elsewhere, has slightly longer setæ than when in drier situations.

GAMASIDÆ.

Lælaps placidus, sp. nov.

Length .65 mm. Reddish yellow, legs and venter more yellowish Body oval, narrower in front, broadly rounded behind; dorsal shield smooth undivided, covering entire dorsum, with a few very short and fine hairs, especially behind; epistoma longer than broad, rounded at tip, with a faint median spine and minute denticulations each side; the mandibles moderate, the superior branch bearing a sharp tooth or spine near its tip beneath and one or two short basal hairs, the finger or movable branch much more slender than the superior branch. The scuta which bears the peritreme on its lower margin gradually broadens in front, the circular spot of peritreme opposite the space between third and fourth coxæ. The legs about equally stout, the first pair a little longer than the fourth, and not quite as long as the body; all provided with short stiff bristles, and terminate in a prominent sucker, as well developed on the first pair as on the rest; anterior coxæ separated by the bases of the mandible and palpi; the latter one-half as large as the legs and two-thirds as long as the body. Ventral shield divided at the third coxæ; not covering the whole of the venter, but leaving a quite broad, membraneous, white portion on the sides and behind; the shield smooth, bluntly pointed behind and there containing a round, white dot; a narrow, interrupted, transverse shield at bases of mandibles and palpi.

Several specimens in wet sphagnum, near Roslyn, N. Y. Like some other species of the genus it resembles a Uropoda.

ORIBATIDÆ.

Oribata palustris, sp. nov.

Length .42 mm. Red-brown, legs yellowish, a white spot at base of abdomen. Tectal plate very short, no superior bristles, anterior bristles short; setæ moderate, clavate, not as long as depth of wings, which are much deeper than long at base. Body short, high, broad, globose, wings prominent; venter finely granulate, genital opening about its length in front of the much larger and somewhat triangular anal

opening; coxal plate with two transverse lines; legs very short, anterior tibia barely longer than the patella, posterior femora very broad and margined below, a curved plate just behind the anterior coxæ; legs most hairy at tips. Differs from *O. arborea*, to which it is allied, by the shape of the wings, in having no superior bristles, the longer setæ, small tectal plate, shorter legs, and broad, margined hind femora.

Many specimens from wet sphagnum, near Roslyn, N. Y.

Oribata emarginata *Bks.*

Several specimens of this species were shaken from the sphagnum; the setæ are a little longer than in typical specimens.

Oribatella setosa, sp. nov.

Length .48 mm. Red-brown, legs paler, a pale spot at base of abdomen. Body longer than broad, only moderately high; tectal plate short, the anterior corners free and projecting spine-like, each with a bristle at tip; superior bristles extremely long, erect and prominent, nearly as long as the anterior legs; setæ nearly two-thirds as long as the superior bristles, weakly clavate. Abdomen smooth, broad, evenly convex; wings quite large, somewhat triangular, the tip broadly rounded, posterior margin very oblique, anterior faintly concave, distinctly longer than deep, hyaline; venter finely granulate; genital opening small, about its length in front of the larger anal opening; coxæ with the outlines distinct; legs short, hairy as usual.

I place this species in *Oribatella* as the extreme tip of the tectal plate is free and each corner prolonged into a spine; but the tectal plate is more united to the cephalothorax than in the other species of the genus; still in Oribata it is wholly united and the corners never extend into spines. It is readily recognized by its long bristles and setæ.

Many specimens shaken from wet sphagnum; Roslyn, N. Y.

Carabodes granulatus, sp. nov.

Length .4 mm. Black. Cephalothorax granulate, broad, tapering to the truncate front, where there are a few simple hairs, a plate-like elevated ridge each side, a median pair of short clavate hairs; setæ a little longer than the hairs and capitate. Abdomen roughly granulate, distinctly longer than broad, sides nearly parallel, base truncate, tip broadly rounded, with four short capitate hairs on each posterior side and four rows above, the submedian with four and the lateral with three hairs; venter granulate like dorsum; genital opening about once and a-half its length in front of the slightly larger anal opening; coxæ separate, legs short, femora thickened.

Related to *C. oblonga* and to a new species by having the ventral apertures widely separate, and with them should probably form a new genus. It differs from *C. oblonga* in the shorter body, more coarsely granulate abdomen, and in the clavate hairs. Two specimens shaken from wet sphagnum; Roslyn, N. Y.

Nothrus simplex, sp. nov.

Length .9 mm. Pale yellow-brown Cephalothorax quite flat, triangular, concave in the middle sides, rounded in front, and with a pair of bristles; superior bristles quite long; setæ moderate, clavate. Abdomen much depressed, smooth above, with irregular, shallow depressions, truncate at base, gradually growing broader, broadly rounded behind; two simple bristles on margin, one near middle, and one towards the tip; margin very acute. Venter finely granulate, showing a narrow triangular area which encloses the connate ventral apertures; the genital one being a little broader than long and slightly narrower behind; the anal one slightly longer than the genital, nearly twice as long as broad, and much broader at base than at tip; legs short, the joints thick, with parallel sides, slightly roughened, and with short simple bristles, the coxæ separate.

Readily distinguished by its depressed and simple body, the rounded tip and the few simple bristles. The young are of an obovate form and have a corrugated epidermis; *i. e.*, folded into curved ridges. A few specimens shaken from wet sphagnum, Roslyn. N. Y.

LARVA OF DEMAS PROPINQUILINEA; ITS SYSTEMATIC POSITION.

By HARRISON G. DYAR, Ph. D.

Prof. E. B. Poulton has shown that dorsal eversible glands are of general occurrence throughout the larvæ of the Lymantriidæ (Trans. Ent. Soc., London, 1887, p. 300) on the tenth and eleventh joints, or rarely only on the eleventh joint (*Dasychira pudibunda*). Probably these structures are characteristic of the family, but Prof. Poulton did not find them in *Demas*. This genus has been considered to belong to the Noctuidæ, but English authors assume it to be a Lymantriid. Mr. J. W. Tutt remarks in speaking of Prof. J. B. Smith's recent catalogue of the Noctuidæ (Entom. Record, etc., VI., 70), "The obsolete position of *Demas* among the Noctuidæ is retained." Now is this position "obsolete"? The absence of the retractile tubercles certainly throws doubt on the matter. Now I have shown a characteristic difference in the arrangement of the thoracic tubercles between the Lymantriidæ and Noctuidæ (Trans. N. Y. Acad. Sci., XIV, 57) and *Demas* shows the Noctuid structure. Therefore, on all essential larval characters *Demas* is a Noctuid. It might, indeed, be an Arctian, as far as the larva goes, but not a Lymantriid. As concerning the structure of the imago, *Demas* seems to have greater affinity with the Noctuidæ than any